

REMARKS OF

HON. JOHN SHERMAN, OF OHIO,

In Senate of the United States, May 9, 1862.

The Senate having proceeded to consider the following resolution submitted by Mr. SHERMAN on the 6th instant:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to communicate to the Senate copies of all official reports from all officers in command, relating to the recent battles at Pittsburg Landing on the 6th, 7th, and 8th days of April last—

Mr. SHERMAN said: Mr. President, my purpose in submitting this resolution is to place before the Senate and the country, as soon as practicable, the facts, in an authentic form, connected with the battle of Pittsburg Landing. And, sir, I especially desire to show the part taken by the volunteers from Ohio in that bloody and most important contest. Like other citizens of Ohio, I felt keenly the indiscriminate imputation cast by the earlier accounts of the battle, especially in the Chicago papers, upon the Ohio volunteers. This imputation was subsequently sanctioned by an innuendo from a Senator from Kentucky not distinguished for his sympathy for the cause in which our troops are engaged. I knew very well, that when the full details of that battle were known, it would be found that the volunteers from Ohio had maintained in that battle the same reputation for courage, for endurance, for patriotic devotion to duty, they had gained on every battle-field west of the Alleghany mountains. If there are any exceptions, if any officer or soldier from Ohio failed to do his duty, I do not desire to shield him; but, ascertaining the facts, I wish to submit his conduct to the judgment of his countrymen. I do not wish the acts of a few to stain the honors won by their brave comrades. I do not mean, if I can prevent it, that the just share of Ohio in the dangers, the sacrifices, the honors and triumphs of this war for national existence shall be tarnished by friend or foe, by the rivalry of loyal States, or the sneers of citizens who do not and will not share in the dangers of the battle-field. Twenty-five regiments of Ohio volunteers were actually engaged in that battle, nine on Sunday the 6th, and the whole of them on Monday, and several regiments were in the divisions which arrived on the battle-field on Monday evening and Tuesday, but not in time to take an effective part in the battle. Of these, three regiments have been singled out as deserving of censure. They are the fifty-third, Colonel Appler; seventy-first, Colonel Mason; and the seventy-seventh, Lieutenant Colonel De Hass. The fifty-third and seventy-seventh, two of them, formed a part of the third brigade, under Colonel Hildebrand. It is of these regiments the accusation is made that they ran without firing a gun, and which, by the indiscriminate license of the press, has been extended to "Ohio troops" generally. I have carefully read all that I could find written or printed in regard to these regiments, and as the accusation affects deeply the honor of thousands of

men who have left their homes to defend their country, and, indirectly, the pride of all the citizens of Ohio in the courage of her sons, I will state as accurately as I can ascertain the conduct of each of these regiments.

The fifty-third regiment was recruited in several counties along the Ohio river, chiefly from the counties of Lawrence, Athens, Scioto, and Jackson, of Ohio, and Greenup, Boyd, and Lewis counties in Kentucky. It was thus formed in a region where the citizens are as brave, hardy, and enterprising as in any portion of the United States. Colonel Appler, of Portsmouth, Ohio, served with credit as a captain in the three months' volunteers, and was recommended by General Rosecranz to the Governor for promotion. He is a man of character and standing in his locality, having been auditor and probate judge. The regiment was raw, just recruited, and did not receive their arms until after their arrival at Paducah, on their way to the battle-field. This regiment was encamped on the extreme left of General Sherman's division, slightly in the advance, but near to General Prentiss's right wing. It consisted of about four hundred and fifty effective men, two companies being out on picket duty. It was here that the first attack of the enemy was made. On Sunday morning the rebels advanced in force, subsequently ascertained to be ten regiments of infantry, supported by artillery.

I now quote from an interesting account recently published by an intelligent gentleman from Athens, Ohio, who visited the battle-field, and details the result of his inquiries:

"The fifty-third in the meantime had been drawn up in line of battle by Colonel Appler. They first formed in front of their camp, but as the rebels advanced upon them in overwhelming numbers, they fell back to the rear of it, where they lay under cover of the rise of ground upon which their camp was stationed. As soon as the rebels advanced within near range, they rose and fired. They immediately fell and reloaded, and then gave the rebels another volley, when Colonel Appler gave the order 'retreat!' He then ran for the river, and was not again seen by his men during that day or Monday.

"Lieutenant Colonel Fulton followed the regiment in its retreat, and rallied the men in the rear of the eighteenth Illinois, and they fought under his command the remainder of the day and Monday."

Colonel Hildebrand, commanding the brigade, in his official report says:

"The fifty-third regiment, after forming in line of battle, under my orders, fired two rounds, and immediately fell back into the woods. It appears from the report of Colonel Appler, that apprehending a flank movement on his left, he ordered a retreat, but subsequently rallied in the rear of the eighteenth Illinois. This regiment became separated from my command, and its movements throughout the day were general."

Again, he says:

"The fifty-third regiment I have referred to already. The regiment, under command of Colonel J. J. Appler, fell back after two rounds under the order of Colonel Appler. Soon afterwards, as I am informed, he left the field, and was not with the regiment during the day or Monday. Lieutenant Colonel Fulton, in command of the regiment, the adjutant, and company officers generally, behaved with becoming bravery."

I do not wish to extenuate the conduct of Colonel Appler; but it is manifest that this regiment simply obeyed his orders in their retreat, but not his example. They retreated in confusion, but re-formed in the rear of the eighteenth Illinois. His conduct should not tarnish the fair fame of brave men who, no doubt, would have resisted this attack bravely but for his order to retreat. The impetuous charge of an attacking enemy forced this, and, at a later period in the day, every regiment in the front line before it, and if the regiment did not make so determined a stand as the others, it was not the fault of the men. That it will redeem its honor, and place its colors side by side with the bravest, I have no doubt. A gentleman perfectly conversant with the material of the regiment, says of them:

"Of the personal bravery of the officers and men from Athens county, those best acquainted with them have no doubt. They are intelligent, highly respectable, and fearless. Had we been called upon to select men most likely to honor us by deeds of noble daring upon the field, they would have been among the chosen. *The fault cannot be theirs.*"

I am now informed that Colonel Appler has been cashiered, and the fifty-third, under another commander, will more than expiate on the enemy his fault and the cloud it has brought upon them.

As to the conduct of the seventy-seventh regiment, the greatest misapprehension exists. The first dispatch stated, "the seventy-seventh retreated without firing a gun." This regiment fought bravely on the 6th, maintaining the front line of defence on their own ground for two hours; nor did they fall back until completely overpowered with superior numbers. Nor did they throw away their arms or flee in disorder; but, in connection with troops from other States, continued in the fight during Sunday and Monday, occupying their old camp on Monday night. This regiment was raw and undisciplined, like the fifty-third, scarcely familiar with the use of their arms, except that familiarity which almost every western man acquires with the sports of boyhood. It was recruited in or near Marietta, on the Ohio river, where the best blood of New England and Virginia has mingled for two generations. It is the concurrent testimony of officers and men that the fifty-seventh and seventy-seventh Ohio, although their left flank was exposed by the retreat of the fifty-third, maintained their advanced position with marked courage. These regiments were formed in line by Colonel Hildebrand, and early in the attack advanced beyond their lines down a hill-side, and to within one hundred yards of the enemy, who were posted in a thick wood. Their superior forces, however, compelled these two regiments to fall back sooner than the brigade of Sherman's division on their right, but not until they had contested the foe for at least two hours. The only wonder is, that raw troops, who had their arms only three or four weeks, should have made so sturdy a defence against superior numbers.

The seventy-seventh regiment lost two hundred and twenty-one in killed, wounded, and missing—ample evidence of the severity of the

contest. Few regiments can show a more fearful loss than this. It is true that, in the pursuit on Tuesday following, the official report of General Sherman condemns the conduct of this regiment severely. I will place General Sherman's report side by side with Colonel Hildebrand's.

Gen. Sherman says of the pursuit on Tuesday:

Colonel Hildebrand says:

"About half a mile from the forks was a clear field, through which the road passed, and immediately beyond a space of some two hundred yards of fallen timber, and beyond an extensive camp. The enemy's cavalry could be seen in this camp, and after a reconnaissance, I ordered the two advance companies of the Ohio seventy-seventh, Colonel Hildebrand, to deploy as skirmishers, and the regiment itself forward into line, with an interval of one hundred yards. In this order I advanced cautiously, until the skirmishers were engaged. Taking it for granted this disposition would clear the camp, I held Colonel Dickey's fourth Illinois cavalry ready for the charge. The enemy's cavalry came down boldly to the charge, breaking through the line of skirmishers, when the regiment of infantry, without cause, broke, threw away their guns and fled. The ground was admirably adapted to a defence of infantry against cavalry, the ground being injury and covered with fallen timber.

"As the regiment of infantry broke, Dickey's cavalry began to discharge their carbines, and fell into disorder."

It is obvious, from a comparison of these reports, that this raw regiment of volunteers, already weakened by detachments for skirmishing and by loss and fatigue in two days' hard fighting, had to meet an impetuous attack from cavalry, an attack more than any other dreaded by undisciplined troops. General Sherman may have been conscious of the advantage the character of the ground and the fallen timber gave them over cavalry, and experienced troops would no doubt have availed themselves of this advantage. But, sir, was it reasonable to expect this of troops like these, exhausted by two days' battle, and, perhaps, seeing for the first time an impetuous attack of cavalry? I do not think so. Regular troops, taught by discipline that infantry well posted can always resist the attack of cavalry, might have repelled this charge; but I cannot see in the statement of either of those officers any just ground of accusation against the courage of this regiment. And, sir, I will not be accused of partiality when I say that in my judgment the language of General Sherman is too severe a censure for such a repulse, and at any rate Colonel Dickey's Illinois cavalry are involved in the same censure.

The seventy-first regiment was one of the last recruited in Ohio. It was recruited in the western part of the State, chiefly in Clark, Mi-

"On the 8th instant, in compliance with your order, I marched my brigade, accompanied by a large cavalry force, also by Colonel Buckland's brigade, on the Corinth road, about four miles from camp. Having in an open field, skirmishers were thrown forward, who discovered rebel cavalry in considerable force, exhibiting a disposition to fight. The skirmishers immediately fired upon them, when the seventy-seventh regiment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel De Hass, was ordered up to support them. Soon after forming in line a large body of cavalry made a bold and dashing charge on the skirmishers and the whole regiment. So sudden and rapid was the charge, shooting our men with carbines and revolvers, that they had not time to reload, and fell back, hoping our cavalry would cover the retreat. Unhappily, our cavalry were not sufficiently near to render essential assistance. The rebel cavalry literally rode down the infantry, shooting, sabering, and trampling them under foot."

ami, Logan, and other adjacent counties. The material of this regiment is fully equal to any raised in Ohio. When they passed through Cincinnati to the field of conflict they excited attention for the fine appearance of the men. They were strong, active, healthy soldiers, most of them farmers, accustomed to out-door work, and admitted to be the best material for an army. That such a regiment should show cowardice is impossible. I regret that I have not been able to see the official reports of the brigade of which it formed a part, so that an authentic statement might be made of the accusation against this regiment; but sufficient is known to mitigate, if not entirely to relieve the regiment from the charge made against it. It was formed in line when the attack of the enemy was made in the morning. It is charged that the colonel, at the first fire of the enemy, left the field, and was not seen by his regiment during the battle. Lieutenant Colonel Kyle, a brave and meritorious officer, was soon after shot dead in the presence of his troops. His death left the regiment without a commander, and it fell into confusion. The regiment, however, voluntarily re-formed its lines in the rear of McClernand's division, and was under arms during Sunday and Monday.

I have thus, Mr. President, stated the allegations made against the only Ohio regiments whose conduct at Pittsburg Landing has been questioned. I have no desire to conceal or palliate any neglect of duty, but simply to present such facts as have been developed from the multitude of statements published in the papers, relying, however, chiefly on official reports where they have been published. I regret that the documents called for by this resolution have not sooner been published. It fully appears, however, that all the troops whose conduct is criticised were undisciplined, fresh from civil pursuits, not used to their arms, and were called upon to meet the first onset of superior numbers of disciplined troops, well commanded, choosing their own time and mode of attack, and making it with fierce impetuosity. Who will dare to affirm that, under like circumstances, he would make a more vigorous defence than did the great body of these troops? It is easy for those who failed to respond to the call of their country to criticise those who expose their lives in its defence. It is easy to talk about courage and cowardice, marching into the cannon's mouth, repelling a charge of cavalry with bayonets, resisting an attack by superior numbers, when one is comfortably seated by the fire with wife and children about; but shame upon the coward who avoids the dangers and exposure of war, and sneers at those who voluntarily assume all its perils for the noblest sentiment that can influence the conduct of men—the love of one's country.

A double shame upon those who, with indiscriminate censure, would confound the brave men, who, in the terrible battle of Sunday, by their unyielding courage and constancy, maintained their position against greatly superior numbers, and thus saved our country from a terrible disaster, and perhaps from dissolution, with the promiscuous crowd of cowards from

all the regiments engaged who gathered on the banks of the river; and a deeper shame still upon the man who would tarnish the fair name of a State of two and a half millions of free people, which has now in the field eighty thousand sons, who have won honors on every battlefield in the valley of the Mississippi.

That some of the volunteers of Ohio formed a part of the mass of disorganized troops huddled on the banks of the river, I do not deny; but these troops were from all the States represented in the battle; they were from each regiment, each squadron, and battery. The same spectacle can be witnessed in every severe contest. In the recent battle at Williamsburg armed dragoons drove them back to their ranks. Deserters from duty, to excuse their own cowardice, generally spread the reports of disaster, surprise, defeat. At the very moment they were chattering with fear, in blind cowardice rushing upon vessels bringing reinforcements, the great mass of the army of General Grant was stubbornly contesting every inch, and thus saved the brave and the timid alike from utter destruction.

I desire now to call the attention of the Senate to the conduct of other Ohio regiments in this battle.

The next brigade to the right of Hildebrand's was that of Colonel Buckland, and was composed of three Ohio regiments—the seventy-second, Colonel Buckland; the forty-eighth, Colonel Sullivan; and the seventieth, Colonel Cockerell. A full and detailed account of the part taken by it is given by Colonel Buckland in his official report, extracts of which I will read, as far more satisfactory than any statement I can make:

"Between six and seven o'clock on Sunday morning I was informed that our pickets were fired upon. I immediately gave orders for forming the brigade on the color line, which was promptly done. About this time I was informed that the pickets were being driven in. I ordered the forty-eighth regiment, Colonel Sullivan, to advance in support of the pickets, which he did, but discovered that the enemy had advanced in force to the creek, about eighty to one hundred rods in front. I immediately ordered the brigade to advance in line of battle. We had marched about thirty to forty rods, when we discovered the enemy and opened fire upon him along the whole line, which checked his advance and caused him to fall back. Discovering that he was pushing a column up a narrow ravine, which extended to the left of the seventy-second regiment to the flat at the creek, bearing somewhat to the right, I ordered the seventy-second to change front, so as to form a line parallel to the ravine, extending down to the flat, company B forming an angle across the head of the ravine. In this position our line was maintained for more than two hours under a deadly fire from the enemy. Officers and men behaved with great coolness and bravery, keeping up a constant stream of fire upon the enemy. He several times recoiled and rallied, but did not advance after the action commenced until we were ordered to fall back on the Pryor road, which we did in good order. Lieutenant Colonel Canfield, in command of the seventy-second regiment, was mortally wounded early in the engagement, and was carried from the field."

It must be remembered that this brigade occupied the right of Colonel Hildebrand's brigade, and the centre of the division. It was composed of raw troops recruited in November and December last, and the officers were without experience—the colonel commanding whom I have the pleasure to know, being a lawyer in northern Ohio. They were assailed by overwhelming numbers, and yet these troops maintained their ground for hours. I can state from the highest authority that this brigade

and two other brigades in this division, composed of Ohio, Illinois, and Iowa volunteers, held their original position where they were attacked at seven forty-five a. m. until ten o'clock, when the enemy passed the left of the division, and their artillery enfiladed the line. Then, and not till then, these brigades were ordered to fall back, and did so in order. They held their second position until four p. m., and then fell back with the whole army to the third and last position, a mile from the river. This was maintained until reinforcements and night came, when they slept on their arms. They formed the next day to the left of General Wallace's fresh division, and fought their way back to their old camp and occupied their tents. On Tuesday, Colonel Buckland's brigade was part of the pursuing force. The loss of this brigade in killed and wounded was two hundred and fifty-six, including several field officers, the seventy-second, under the immediate command of Colonel Buckland, suffering most severely; and yet this regiment, by misapprehension, was confounded with another, and so cruelly arraigned for cowardice. I can appreciate the feelings of a gallant officer in writing the following letter to the adjutant general of Ohio:

Sir: I perceive by the Cincinnati and Louisville papers that the conduct of this brigade in the battle of Pittsburg has been grossly misrepresented. I think the report of General Sherman will do us justice. * * * It is not true that we fled; but, on the contrary, we maintained our position more than two hours, and did not retire until the regiments on our left had given way, and we were ordered to fall back, which we did in good order. * * * We slept on our arms in line on Sunday night, and were in the thickest of the fight the next day, and Monday night slept in the camp we started from Sunday morning. My brigade pursued the enemy some miles on the road to Corinth. Instead of being driven to the boats, as alleged by these newspaper correspondents, I have not seen the Tennessee river since we came to this camp, nearly four weeks since. It is hard, after having done our duty in such a battle as this, to be thus slandered. But I trust justice will yet be done.

Your obedient servant,

R. S. BUCKLAND.

When the seventieth regiment was falling back, portions of it became detached, but at once formed with other regiments. Colonel Ransom, of the eleventh Illinois, thus mentions a timely reinforcement from this regiment:

"I was here joined by Adjutant Phillips, of the seventieth Ohio, and forty of his men, who took the left of my regiment, and fought gallantly with us through the remainder of the day. We immediately moved forward and met the enemy, in rear of the camps of the eleventh and twentieth Illinois, when we drove them slowly back under a heavy fire, and while a rebel battery was playing upon us."

The forty-sixth regiment, Colonel Worthington, formed a part of McDowell's brigade on the extreme left of our position. This brigade was not attacked at all, the purpose of the enemy being to pierce the centre. At 9 o'clock a. m., this brigade, passing the right flank of the enemy, commenced the attack about noon, and with great courage assisted in maintaining our position. Its loss was very heavy. The forty-sixth lost over two hundred killed and wounded. At 1 o'clock it was drawn off in order with the rest of the division, and participated in the battle during the balance of the day and on Monday. The highest credit is given to Colonel Worthington for courage and good conduct. Several brave men, whom I personally know, attest by their death the gallantry of this regiment.

Two regiments of Ohio troops, the sixth and twenty-fourth, and thirtieth Indiana, formed a brigade under Colonel Ammen. This officer is brave, skilful, and experienced, and gloriously won the star with which the President and Senate have since honored him. The achievements of this brigade are testified to by all who witnessed them. General Nelson, in whose division he served, and several officers, refer to it in glowing terms. The favorable mention of Colonel Ammen by General Nelson is creditable alike to both. Here it is:

"I desire to call the attention of the general commanding the army of the Ohio to the distinguished conduct of Colonel Jacob Ammen, of the twenty-fourth Ohio volunteers, commanding the tenth brigade. The cool way and vigorous method in which he fought his brigade, protecting all the while the left flank of the army, gave me a profitable lesson in the science of battles."

But I prefer to allow an officer of the twenty-fourth, the "Cleveland Garibaldians," tell his own story. It is fully sustained by the official reports, and I cannot read it without expressing the deep obligations that our country will ever be under to our adopted fellow-citizens, especially those of German birth. They have distinguished themselves in every battle-field of the war. They were among the earliest to appreciate the gravity and magnitude of the contest. They have endured danger, fatigue, and death with an heroic courage that will forever deepen the shame of the favored rebels of the South, sons of our own soil, who have never known this Government except for the blessings it has given them, and for the honors it has heaped upon them. If the shadow of a prejudice ever lingered upon the mind of a native American citizen, it should be dissipated forever by the courage and patriotism of those who, seeking a home among us, have labored in peace and with patient industry to develop our resources; and now, in war, when our national existence is threatened with overthrow, promptly assume the worst perils of war. But to return, I have an extract from a letter of an officer of company H, twenty fourth regiment:

"The attack was terrible beyond description. Our regiment was for three long hours engaged with three regiments and one battery of the enemy. We advanced in a hot storm of grape and Minie balls and attacked the enemy's cannon—they were ours."

"The enemy retreated, and a shower of balls accompanied their flight; but they soon rallied. Our regiment was but three hundred strong, and we were forced back; but we advanced and charged again, and were forced back again. When we were about being forced back the last time, our captain, George Arnold, fell, struck in the shoulder, after he had during the whole day, in the most difficult and trying situations, shown himself a brave and efficient officer. He received a fearful, but I hope not mortal wound. General Nelson came galloping up, and asked who silenced that battery over there. The answer was, the twenty-fourth; whereupon he said 'You have done well, my boys; I love and honor every one of you.' The twenty-fourth and nineteenth Ohio, and thirty-second Indiana, (Wilders,) received orders to charge bayonets, and victory was ours."

Three regiments of Ohio troops served in the division of General Crittenden, and each with distinguished credit. The thirteenth Ohio, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Hawkins, and as a part of the fourteenth brigade, on Monday charged upon and took three pieces of the celebrated Washington battery of artillery. After spiking one of the guns and meeting with a severe loss, the enemy appeared in force, and succeeded, with fresh troops and su-

porior numbers, in compelling them to fall back four hundred yards.

Later in the day, this regiment forming part of a line of attack, charged upon, drove back the enemy, and again captured the rebel battery which they had failed to hold in the morning. This charge was brilliant and decisive, and the battery was held against repeated efforts of the rebels to regain it. The nineteenth Ohio, under Colonel Beaty, and the fifty ninth Ohio, under Colonel Fyffe, formed part of General Boyle's brigade. He thus speaks of their conduct in the battle of Monday:

"It is proper for me to say to you that the two Ohio regiments in my brigade, the nineteenth Ohio, Colonel Samuel Beaty, and fifty-ninth Ohio, Colonel J. T. Fyffe, won the character of brave and gallant soldiers and officers, in the great battle of Shiloh. I can safely say that all the Ohio troops in the 'army of the Ohio,' commanded by Major General Buell, won immortal renown for themselves and their State, and deserve the gratitude of the nation. The soldiers of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, stood shoulder to shoulder in this greatest battle of the continent, and have rendered historic the field of Shiloh, and crystallized their names in the fiery ordeal of battle and rendered them immortal."

Six regiments of Ohio infantry and one battalion of cavalry served in the division of General Lew. Wallace. It will be remembered that this division did not arrive on the battle ground until after nightfall of Sunday, and then took the extreme right of our army on Monday. The third brigade of this division was composed entirely of Ohio troops, under Colonel Whittlesey, and most of the second under Colonel Thayer. The march of this division was a continuous advance, commencing with an artillery fight in the morning. The official report of General Wallace as to the conduct of the Ohio troops, and, indeed, as to all in his division, leaves but little to be said. I will read brief extracts:

"Here the fifty-eighth Ohio and twenty-third Indiana proved themselves fit comrades in battle, with the noble first Nebraska. Here also the seventy-sixth Ohio won a brilliant fame. The first Nebraska fired away its last cartridge. In the heat of the action, at a word, the seventy-eighth Ohio rushed in and took its place. Off to the right, meanwhile, arose the music of the twentieth and seventy-eighth Ohio, fighting gallantly in support of Thurber, to whom the sound of rebel cannon seemed a challenge—no sinner heart than accepted."

"From the time the word was entered, 'forward' was the only order, and step by step, from tree to tree, position to position, the rebel lines went back, never stopping again—infantry, horse, and artillery, all went back. The firing was grand and terrible. Before us was the Crescent regiment of New Orleans; sheltering us on the right was the Washington artillery, of Munassas renown, whose last stand was in front of Colonel Whittlesey's command. To and fro, now in my front, then in Sherman's, rode General Beauregard, inciting his troops and fighting for his fading prestige of invincibility. The desperation of the struggle may be easily imagined."

"Of my regiments, I find it impossible to say enough; excepting the twenty-third and twenty-fourth Indiana and twentieth Ohio, they had all participated in the battle of Donelson. But this was a greater than Donelson, and consequently a more terrible ordeal in which to test what may be a thing of glory or shame—the courage of an untried regiment. How well they all behaved, I saw up in the trees—not a man, officer or soldier, flinched, none but the wounded went to the landing. Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, and Kansas will be proud of the steadfast third division, and team L."

The division of General McCook, himself a citizen of Ohio, played a conspicuous part in the terrible tragedy of Monday. It arrived on the battle-field at five o'clock, a. m., having marched rapidly the day before, and most of the night. It was assigned a central position under the immediate command of General

Buell. It was composed chiefly of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana troops, most of them old regiments, well drilled and thoroughly efficient. The first, Colonel Parrott; fifteenth, Colonel Dickey; and forty-ninth, Colonel Gibson, are conceded to be among the best of our regiments, and are each commanded by young, active, zealous, intelligent officers. Three of them before the war were lawyers, and all of them were engaged in the active pursuits of private life, with little, if any, knowledge of military affairs.

In addition, there was the famous thirty-second Indiana regiment, under Colonel Willich. We cannot allow our sister State, bravely as she has borne herself in this war, to assume all the honor of this regiment. Colonel Willich is a citizen of Ohio, and a large part, if not the greater part, of his men are from Ohio.

Sir, it is a remarkable fact, that in this great struggle the three central States of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana did not observe the State lines in forming regiments. Ohio furnished large numbers of officers and soldiers to Kentucky, and Indiana and Kentucky contributed largely to several Ohio regiments. The ties of blood and marriage have bound them all, I trust, in an immortal Union; and in this great battle they fought with equal bravery, not only side by side, not only as parts of divisions and brigades, but as parts of regiments and companies. I will not follow these regiments through the incidents of the battle. They all wore the highest honors. General Sherman, in his official report, concedes to McCook's division, formerly under his command in Kentucky, the highest praise:

"Near General McCook's camp I saw, for the first time, the well-ordered and compact column of General Buell's Kentucky forces, whose soldierly movements at once gave confidence to our newer and less disciplined forces."

"Here I saw Willich's regiment advance upon a point of water oaks and thickets, behind which I knew the enemy was in great strength, and enter it in beautiful style. There arose the severest musketry fire I ever heard, and lasted some twenty minutes, when this splendid regiment had to fall back."

"Willich's regiment had been repulsed, but the whole brigade of McCook's division advanced, beautifully deployed, and entered the dreaded woods. I ordered my second brigade, then commanded by F. Kerby Smith, (Colonel Stewart being wounded,) to form on its right, and my fourth brigade, Colonel Buck and, on the left, all to advance abreast with the Kentucky brigade before mentioned, which I afterwards found to be Rousseau's brigade of General McCook's division."

"I concede that General McCook's splendid division from Kentucky drove back the enemy along the Corinth road, which was the great centre of the field of battle, where Beauregard commanded in person, supported by Bragg, Johnson, and Breckinridge's divisions."

Sir, I doubt if the history of the war presents a more striking illustration of the power of a single well-disciplined regiment in a great battle than is presented by the achievements of Colonel Willich. Attached to General McCook's division as a reserve, we hear of him first supporting the left of General Wallace's division on the right of the field; then again ordered "to advance to the support of General Rousseau's left, and to give the enemy the bayonet as soon as possible;" then advancing into a thicket where the enemy was massed in force, sometimes repulsed but never defeated, always ready with the bayonet. Before such troops the enemy could do nothing but retreat or die.

I know I will be asked, in connection with

upon the incidents of this battle, and in vindicating the honor of the State I represent, in recording the praise extended to an Ohio officer in whose reputation I have a double interest—that of kindred and State. I do this the more freely as I have already quoted and commented upon his official action and report. I refer to General Sherman. General Grant, under whose immediate command he acted, says:

"I feel it a duty, however, to a gallant and able officer—Brigadier General W. T. Sherman—to make a special mention. He not only was with his command during the entire of the two days' action, but displayed great judgment and skill in the management of his men. Although severely wounded in the hand the first day, his place was never vacant. He was again wounded, and had three horses killed under him."

General Halleck, whose comprehensive mind has directed with admirable success military operations more extended and important than any in modern history since the fall of Bonaparte, writes to the Secretary of War:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI,
PITTSBURG, TENNESSEE, April 13, 1862.

SIR: It is the unanimous opinion here that Brigadier General W. T. Sherman saved the fortune of the day on the 6th, and contributed largely to the glorious victory of the 7th. He was in the thickest of the fight on both days, having had three horses killed under him, and being surrounded twice. I respectfully request that he be made a major general of volunteers, to date from the 6th instant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK, Major General Commanding.
Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War

Sir, when the record of this war is made up, this battle will be regarded as among the most important, as it was the most bloody, thus far of the war. It may be that General Grant would have acted more wisely to have left his forces on the east bank of the Tennessee until reinforced by Buell; but it must be remembered that he took his position before Beauregard arrived at Corinth, and if he had retreated and sought shelter behind a river, and yielded the right bank of the river to his enemy, a single battery on the west bank would have cut off his supplies. What a shower of complaint would then have fallen on him! It may be that he did wrong in having General Wallace at Crump's Landing, so far from the support of the main army; but it must be remembered that point was equally necessary to be defended as Pittsburg Landing. It may be that General Buell was too tardy in his movement to reinforce General Grant; but who can tell the difficulties to be overcome in a long march? It may be, and I think it is true, that the commanding officers believed, and acted upon the belief, that the enemy would not attack their position, but would await an attack at Corinth; but in this they shared the common opinion of the whole country. It may be that proper precautions were not taken against surprise; but it now conclusively appears that all the terrible stories of men being bayoneted in their tents, of regiments scattering without a fire, are untrue or grossly exaggerated. We have no official information as to General Prentiss's division; but as to that of General Sherman, on his right, it is conclusively shown there was no surprise in the sense in which that word is usually used. Every regiment was in line of battle before the enemy attacked. This is shown by the statement and report of every officer from whom we have heard.

I have the highest authority saying that no officer or soldier was bayoneted in or near his tent, nor, indeed, does it appear that any were bayoneted on the field. The brigade surgeon of one of the brigades said to be surprised, reports that he has not seen a single bayonet wound on a living or a dead person. The fifty-third Ohio, the first regiment attacked and broken, I have shown was in line of battle, lost no officer killed and but seven men killed. While the pickets were driven in between six and seven, a. m., the first attack was not made until forty-five minutes past seven, a. m.

Gen. Sherman writes me as to his division, that

"Strong guards were out in front of each brigade, which guards were driven in on the morning of the battle, but before the enemy came within cannon range of my position. Every regiment was under arms at posts, I had previously assigned them; the cavalry was saddled and artillery harnessed, unlimbered, and commenced firing as soon as the enemy came in sight. On Saturday I had no cavalry pickets out, because I had no cavalry in my division. General Grant had made a new assignment of cavalry and artillery on Friday. The Ohio fifth, which had been with me, was ordered to Harbott, and eight companies of the fourth Illinois, to Colonel Dickey, assigned to me, did not get into camp till near Saturday night, and I ordered them under saddle at daylight."

From General Prentiss we cannot hear. He is a prisoner; but I cannot but express my regret at the repeated attacks made upon him. I notice in a recent letter from an officer on General Grant's staff, published in the Cincinnati Commercial, a statement, of which I will read an extract:

"Prentiss is not here to make his report; but the official report of an officer has been made, who states that early on Sunday morning General Prentiss sent him out on the Corinth road, with two companies of skirmishers, to make reconnaissance of the enemy, who had been reported as approaching in force. He met our pickets one mile beyond our lines, coming back to announce the enemy's approach. The fact was duly reported to General Prentiss, and his line of battle was immediately formed; and up to three o'clock on Sunday afternoon his line remained unbroken. No regiment of his command was captured until after three o'clock on Sunday, at which time he himself was taken prisoner, with part of his command."

If this be true, and their statements are sustained by the accounts of General Prentiss's capture in the rebel papers, it places a very different phase upon the action of that officer on Sunday morning from the accounts heretofore published. I am not here to defend General Prentiss, but I cannot but express my sincere regret that brave officers are arraigned without trial and denounced with violence perhaps by the very men who deserted their ranks, and seek to excuse their cowardice by indiscriminate abuse of those who stood their ground. And especially is this true of General Grant, whose courage and patriotism cannot be questioned. This morning I read a long article in the Ohio State Journal, a paper of influence, in which the editor, safely secured in his sanctum, arraigns General Grant with great severity. He asks, "where, when, and why were our three thousand troops and their general, Prentiss, taken prisoners without a blow?" Now, sir, it was well known that General Prentiss, instead of falling without a blow, fought gallantly with the Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri volunteers under his command for many hours, and the only question ever made of either him or General Grant was whether they had taken proper precautions against surprise. Again the editor says:

"Is it supposable that civilians, (who are presumed to be ignorant in military matters,) will accept as satisfactory, the statement of a major general in assuring them that 'nothing could be more false' than to 'talk about their being surprised,' when our troops were attacked, bayoneted, and made prisoners in their beds?"

Now, sir, this entire statement is shown to be false by every report or statement made by those who kept in the advance, and was made only by and to excuse those who fled. Surely the press might give more credit to those in front who fought, rather than to those who fled. Are such attacks the reward of a brave officer for services rendered on the battle-field? If so, there can be but little motive for men to fight for their country.

It may be that General Grant should have been with the main body of his forces, as he certainly would have been if he had known the purpose of the enemy to attack in force; but as large reinforcements were then arriving at Savannah, and as it was his duty, as ranking officer, to dispose of them, it was not improper that he should be at Savannah. It may have been that raw troops were not the best to expose to an imminent attack; but the whole of that army were raw volunteers, the severe schooling at Fort Donelson being the only lesson some of them had learned. The generals had no choice but to do the best with the force at their command.

But whatever may be said of the position of the army, certain it is they won immortal honor by their courage and endurance. If regiments broke, they were rallied again; if officers deserted, others took their place; if cowards fled into the rear and gathered under the banks of the river, brave men stood unappalled through the long and weary hours of a desperate and unequal contest. Nor was the contest barren of results. We must not only subdue rebels; we must teach them to respect us. We must do this not only by the display of overwhelming force, not only by the exhibition of a patriotism that will laugh at sacrifices to preserve our country, but we must exhibit those qualities of courage, endurance, and gallantry which in all ages have been the best guarantee for peace at home and abroad. We must dissipate forever the egotism of a narrow-minded caste of slaveowners who assume, with offensive insolence, superiority over a hardy, labor-loving, and liberty-loving people. I wish to see buried with the fallen sceptre of political power so long swayed by these rebels all their false notions of superior courage. When they come back to us as common members of a political community, I wish them to come chastened with the lessons of experience, fully convinced that neither their courage, their numbers, their cotton, nor their slaves can enable them to overthrow this Government. They have been taught this lesson often, but never more emphatically than on this battle-field.

Mr. President, I cannot dismiss this subject without stating briefly the part Ohio has taken in this war. Upon the authority of a gentleman thoroughly conversant with the recruitment of our army, I affirm that Ohio has more soldiers in the field than any other State in proportion to its population; that Ohio troops

have fought in more battles in this war than those of any other State; that they have won distinction in every battle fought west of the Alleghany mountains. I claim for her or her volunteers no superiority over any other, as I can readily account for her interest in this war, not only from her patriotism, but from her central and exposed position. That I do not overstate her action I have had prepared an authentic statement of her troops now actually in the field.

It appears that Ohio has now seventy seven regiments of infantry, six regiments and one squadron of cavalry, two regiments of artillery, and sixteen batteries not included in regiments. Of these, all but five were full to the minimum of eight hundred and forty rank and file, when they left the State, and a number of them full to the maximum of one thousand men. The cavalry regiments numbered each twelve hundred rank and file. Thus it will be safe to say that Ohio has now seventy-five thousand men in the field. This force is scattered from General Banks's corps, in Virginia, to New Mexico, in not less than eight States. But this is not all. The thirteenth Missouri, thirty-second Indiana, and at least three Virginia and Kentucky regiments are made of Ohio volunteers, and I know at least one company of Ohio volunteers in a New York regiment.

At the outbreak of the rebellion, Ohio promptly responded to the call of the President for troops. The message of Governor Dennison to the citizens of the State calling for the immediate organization of thirteen regiments of infantry, was answered by eighty-seven thousand volunteers. Of these the Secretary of War would accept but thirteen thousand; but Governor Dennison, having a better appreciation of the nature of the contest, organized for the State nine other regiments. It was only a few days before the battle of Bull Run that the Government would recognise these regiments, although, in the meantime, they had won victories in Western Virginia. On the 18th, the first and second Ohio regiments were on their way to this city. A large portion of the remainder of the twenty-two regiments were placed under the command of General McClellan, and crossed the Ohio, entering Western Virginia on Monday the 26th of May, taking possession of Parkersburg and Grafton. In his address to his soldiers, General McClellan used the following language:

"You are ordered to cross the frontier and enter on the soil of Virginia." * * * "Remember each one of you holds in his keeping the honor of Ohio and of the Union."

How nobly and well they acquitted themselves in the campaign in Western Virginia, it is necessary only to refer to the engagements there, in every one of which the Ohio forces were either the sole or most prominent participants. The first important battle, at Rich Mountain, was led on by portions of the eighth, tenth, and nineteenth Ohio regiments, under command of Colonel (now General) Rosecranz, who attacked the enemy, numbering from two to three thousand, strongly intrenched, putting them to flight, capturing their cannon, camp equipage, large number of wagons, &c. General McClellan, in his official report, says:

Wounded, of which the rebel army was composed of
der Colonel Rosecrans, which turned the position."

Next in order is the battle of Carrick's Ford, Virginia. It will be remembered that in this engagement the rebel general, Robert S. Garnett, was killed. On the night of the 11th of July, the rebel army at Laurel Hill, under command of General Garnett, evacuated in great haste upon learning of General McClellan's approach to Beverly. This latter point they were apparently endeavoring to pass before General McClellan should arrive, by a passage through the Cheat Mountain gap. The evacuation was discovered the following morning, when the Indiana troops took possession of the rebel camp, while the Ohio fourteenth led on the advance in hot pursuit of the retreating rebels. In the pursuit the Ohio forces were conspicuous, marching over the rough mountainous country, heedless of the incessant rain, the almost impassable roads, everything but duty. At Carrick's Ford they led on the attack upon a force largely superior to their own, assaulted the enemy under a heavy fire from their masked batteries and small-arms, completely routing and putting them to flight. The entire loss sustained was in the fourteenth Ohio.

Sir, these were among the earlier victories of the war; but they were important as lighting the gloom of the country over the disaster at Bull Run. When we look to the recent contests in the valley of the Mississippi, we pride ourselves upon the part our volunteers have taken in numerous well-contested battle-fields. At Somerset it was the bayonet charge of the ninth Ohio, under Colonel (now General) Robert McCook, that drove the enemy from the field, after the battle had been bravely contested by Ohio, Indiana, and Minnesota volunteers. The division of General Mitchell, composed chiefly of Ohio regiments, seven in number, has rendered the most important service to his country in a manner highly creditable to him and his command. Two Ohio regiments, the forty-eighth and fifty-eighth, shared in the honors at Fort Donelson. Four regiments, the twenty-seventh, thirty-ninth, forty-third, and sixty-third, served under General Pope in Missouri, New Madrid, and Island No. 10. Several regiments served with high credit under General Curtis, a native-born citizen of Ohio, in the battle of Pea Ridge, in the Ozark mountains of Arkansas. General Garfield, a volunteer officer, in whom we feel great pride, opened the campaign in East Kentucky by outwitting and thoroughly whipping my old friend, Humphrey Marshall. In every battle-field in the West we share with our sister States all the honors of strife and victory.

And, sir, I must not overlook one of the most brilliant battles of the war, the recent one at Winchester, in which the fifth, seventh, eighth, twenty-ninth, sixty-second, and sixty-seventh all took a distinguished part. The charge of Col. Tyler has been regarded by several officers as among the most brilliant feats of the war.

Several regiments of Ohio volunteers have also been rendering equally important, if not

greater.

And, sir, more important than all, our Ohio volunteers have enabled the Legislature of Kentucky to avoid many of the horrors of civil war, which, at one time, the traitorous faction of Breckinridge threatened to bring upon the people of that State. It is not too much to say that Kentucky is deeply indebted to Ohio for her rescue from the domination of the rebels in that State. The policy of the Governor of Ohio in preserving the peace of the border and cultivating the friendly intercourse between the citizens of the two States, deprived the rebels of the pretext that Ohio forces intended to invade her soil with hostile purpose, while his prompt response to the wishes and the necessities of the Unionists of Kentucky in sending a large force into that State during the session of the Legislature in September last overawed the traitors, and strengthened as well the Union sentiment of the people of Kentucky as the patriotic purposes of the Legislature, in providing for the safety of the State against the designs of the rebels.

Sir, I refer to these events, not with a view of disparaging the achievements of others, but to secure to the people of Ohio the just share of honor to which they are entitled. We ought always to regard our State organization with pride. It controls nearly all the relations which affect home, family, kindred, property, and personal rights. I trust never to see the States lose their importance in our system of Government. Although rebels have cloaked their treason with the pretense of defending State rights, by making the States independent of and superior to the United States, yet we ought not, therefore, to reduce them below their proper position, or impair in the least the affection due from each citizen to his State. State pride and State rights are perfectly consistent with the higher allegiance we owe to the national Government. And, sir, the same sentiment which makes us sensitive for the honor of our State will excite us to preserve the honor and just authority of the United States.

It is this love of nationality, the indefinable sentiment which animates us at the sight of our flag, which kindles our blood when the national hymns break upon us, which excites the pride and elevates the manhood of the brave and the timid, the young and the old alike; it is this sentiment that now arms seven hundred thousand men, and makes twenty millions of people eager to make sacrifices of property and life for their country.

It is this love of nationality, founded upon the affection of our people for both the State and the General Governments, that I trust will carry us safely through this national trial, and, under the blessings of divine Providence, speedily bring us a permanent peace upon the true basis, the supremacy of each State for local purposes, and the indivisibility and unity of all the people of the United States in one Government, for the purposes prescribed by the Constitution.